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INFO RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS BEIRUT 000895

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SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EEB/EPPD SMITH-NISSLEY  
NEA/ELA ALLEN, NEA/RA MCCLOUD  
COMMERCE FOR LOUSTAUNAU, SAMS, WIEGLER

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [AMGT](#) [BEXP](#) [ECON](#) [ELAB](#) [ETRD](#) [KSEP](#) [SENV](#) [LE](#)  
SUBJECT: DUE DILIGENCE ON BEIRUT'S NOMINEE FOR THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE'S 2009 AWARD FOR CORPORATE EXCELLENCE

REF: STATE 78538

11. (SBU) The following are answers to the due diligence questions posed in reftel:

A) Post sees no risk of U.S. embarrassment resulting from the selection of Cisco for the Secretary's Award for Corporate Excellence. Many of Cisco's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in Lebanon were part of the "Partnership for Lebanon" initiative established after the 2006 war between Hizballah and Israel with the encouragement of the USG.

B) Cisco's CSR activities led to job creation in the U.S. as those activities are supported by Cisco and NGO employees in the U.S. who were recruited specifically to carry them out.

C) Cisco, one of the leading U.S. technology providers, believes its international CSR activities have boosted its brand image and hence international demand for its products, which have more than 60% U.S. content.

D) Cisco abides by local labor laws everywhere it operates, including in Lebanon, though its small staff here is not unionized.

E) There is no litigation pending in Lebanese courts involving Cisco.

F) Embassy's Chief of Mission and officers involved in the nominating process do not hold shares of stock or have financial interests in Cisco.

SISON